

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Airfields at Uzundzhovo, Sarafovo, Ravnets and Plovdiv

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Uzundzhovo Airfield (May 1953)

1. Uzundzhovo airfield is located at N 41-58, E 25-35-30, as shown in the sketch included as Appendix A on page 3. This field is equipped with a 2,500-meter concrete runway. At present work is in progress toward the construction of taxi-strips which will join the center and the two extremities of the concrete runway to the northern part of the field where hangars and buildings will be constructed. At present, all that may be seen are sheds for workers, and an old masonry building the use of which is not known.
2. Uzundzhovo airfield is located in a wide, flat, grassy valley which is practically devoid of trees. It is situated between the low hills to the north, which reach a height of 285 meters, and the heights to the south and southwest, where the city of Khaskovo is located. It is believed that this airport will be ready to enter into operation shortly and will be capable of handling the most modern jet aircraft.

Sarafovo Airfield (July 1953)

3. Sarafovo airfield is located in the northwestern outskirts of the town of Sarafovo, at N 42-34-30, E 27-31-20. This is a grassy field, approximately 900 x 800 meters in size, which has no runways or hangars; the only installation is a radio station. This is a military and civilian airfield and the domestic lines of TABSO (Transportno-Aviatsionno Bulgaro-Suvetsko Obshtestvo; Bulgaro-Soviet Air Transport Affiliation) land here.
4. Military aircraft have been frequently observed at this field; however, because of the lack of facilities, it is believed that the aircraft observed belonged to units which are based elsewhere and which land at Sarafovo on training flights.

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Ravnets Airfield (July 1953)

5. Ravnets airfield is located approximately 15 kilometers west of Burgas in the immediate vicinity of the village of Ravnets, at N 42-31-30, E 27-15-30. This airfield is equipped with a concrete runway estimated to be 1,500-1,800 meters in length. The taxi-strip which joins the two extremities of the runway is equipped with hardstands each capable of accommodating a fighter or a light bomber. The runway is further equipped with two additional taxi-strips which connect it to the parking apron. Several buildings (use unknown) are located in the southwest corner of the field.
6. Allegedly, no units are as yet based at this airfield, perhaps because construction work has not been entirely completed. However, the installations are sufficient for basing at least a jet fighter regiment here.

Plovdiv Airfield (July 1953)

7. Plovdiv airfield is located at N 42-07-30, E 24-46, as shown in the sketch included as Appendix B on page 4. This airfield is approximately 1,600 x 1,000 meters in size and has no runways. The 5 Air Assault Division and its subordinate 23 Regiment are based at this field.
8. The following legend refers to the sketch on page 4:
 1. Large, 2-story barrack capable of accommodating 500-600 men
 2. Command building and control tower
 3. Four hangars
 4. Small building with wind-sock
 5. Large hangar; sheds housing workshops are located behind this hangar
 6. Two low, long buildings (probably warehouses)
 7. Offices of TABSO
 8. Bar-Restaurant of TABSO
 9. Area for testing airplane guns.

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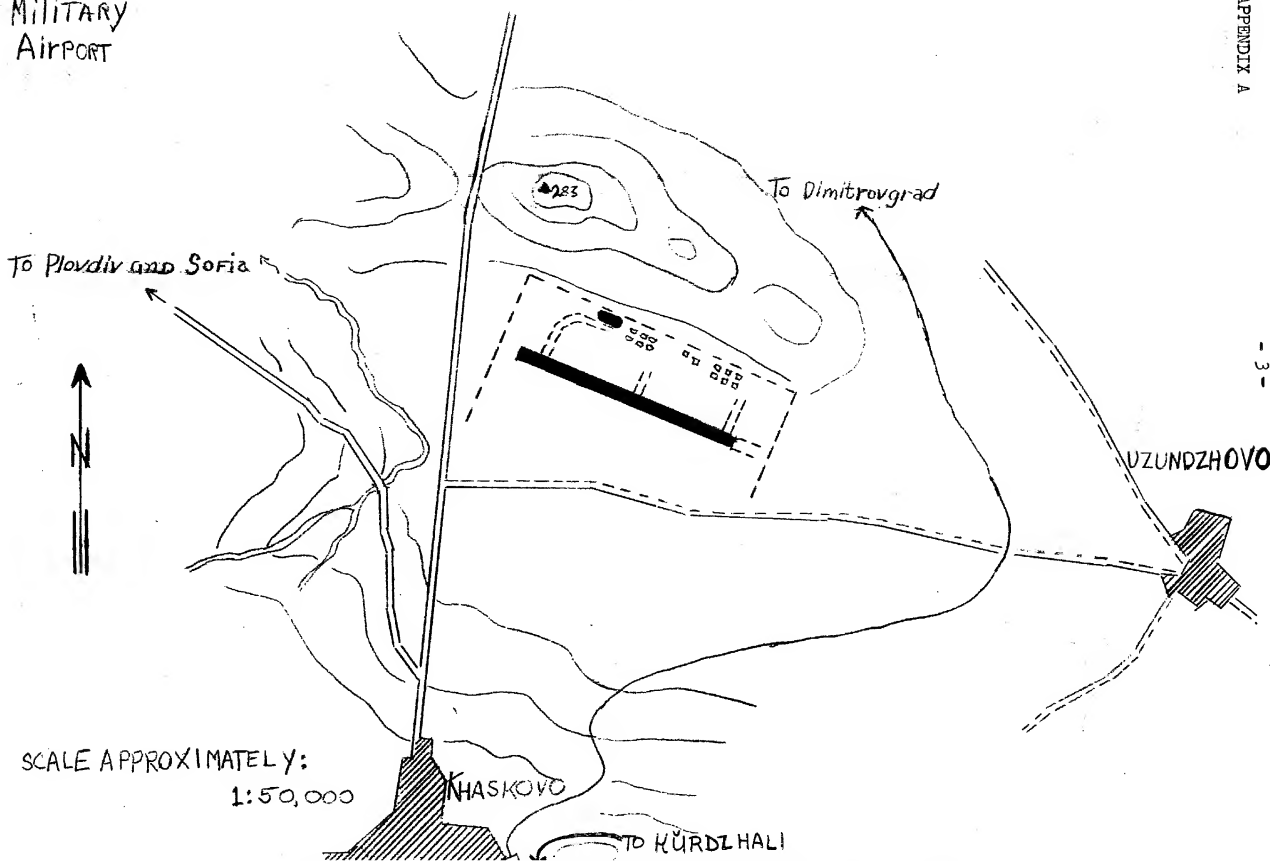
To Dimitrovgrad and Stara Zagora

APPENDIX A

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